

MOTHERS NEWS

a free newspaper, published monthly

write to: Mothers News c/o Rhododendron Festival PO Box 29081 Providence RI 02909

THE PAPER OF RECORD

previously Performance Of War magazine

previously Punk On Wave magazine

previously Several Bundles Of National Geographic magazine

BURN THE MS

WHOA, it's winter, meteorologically anyway and what else is there. December is the last month, and the name means "tenth", and even though it's the twelfth month, it at least kind of makes sense, in that we have ten fingers, and usually you count to ten, and, you know, that's it. If you have more than ten of something [good / bad] than you have [no problems / actionable problems]. Of course the clock goes to twelve without being all Strange Loop about it, but the clock is round and it's way easier to cut a circle into twelves than into tens, just ask a pizzisto. Who invented the hour anyway? Oh wait, no one. The hour of the day is too small/important to invent (NB: the Sumerians invented the minute AND the second).

December changed positions from 10th to 12th when someone decided that a long previously unnamed 61+ day period of winter should be a regular thing that we have the facility to talk about, and thus were born both January and February, and everything else got pushed back by two. No idea how or why people survived a nameless season of death year after year, the whole concept seems needlessly harsh. Guess there's a lot of Don't Do's we could pin on the Roman empire...

HOLIDAYS IN DECEMBER

There are quite a few holidays of interest in December, and with the exception of Zamenhof day (Dec 15) they mostly all deal with massive gift ceremonies. It's a nice feeling to give someone a gift, or to get a gift, or to wake up one icy winter's morn to find that the famous Swedish gift-elf Tomtegubbe has put a big juicy orange in your shoe! But for many people this is also a massive source of anxiety- buying things, obligations, keeping up with purely fictional Joneses. Our position at Mother's News is, to coin a phrase, praetertraditional, in that the tradition since one nigh-inseparable moment after the Big Bang has been "do whatever". Nonetheless, the position is controversial- to give presents all year round, to routinely give away or destroy 10% of our income, and for separate reasons, to place oranges in the shoes of others at random intervals. Has the construction of a "giving period" absolved the culture of aperiodic gift giving, Jeckylling good will into just one month and allowing self-serving behavior to Hyde over the next eleven? Maybe. OK, we're not saying don't give people gifts this giftseason, but how about this- send cards at will, but to maximize the purity of gift-giving, give people gifts (instead of also) on your half-birthday. They won't really be expecting it (so it's a surprise AND you don't /have/ to get something for everyone), plus it's as far as possible from your own birthday, so you won't be influenced by what you got or want from others. If you're locked into holiday gift giving and trying not to lose face / sanity / rent money, one thing that always works is a nice (even kind of goofy) picture of yourself in a thrift-store frame spray-painted gold. Everyone that you feel you have to give a present to should want this. Take one picture and have copies made.



Of course the season isn't ONLY about gifts. In our village we welcome December knowing that we are also welcoming KRAMPUS, the horned and quasi-malicious companion of St Peter, who, in the form of 6 or 7 drunken young men of the village in wooden masks and heavy fur coats, walks the streets in the first two weeks of the month, hitting people with birch branches, whitewashing shoppers in the snow, ringing enormous bells, and busting into your party and overturning tables full of snacks. And if you start to cry or make a fuss OR play it cool and try to walk on by, he grabs you by the face, and stares you down until you reach some sort of wordless acknowledgement. I don't know why this happens, it's tradition.

FOOD NEWS

Sometimes food is good, sometimes it's bad, but one thing that's for sure is that The Kid's gotta Eat. So what are the good new food-methods this season? Let's take a look!

MISO SOUP- if you want to be healthy and strong, like an ox, but one that isn't always sniffing and sneezing, have miso soup every day. Miso comes from the supermarket as a paste in a tub, and when you eat it you don't get as sick as much. If you think that soup is a waste of time, you're right- it's just wet food that you scoop out a little bit at a time? Come on, that sucks. And it's in a bowl, which spills everywhere. Frown face... Drink miso soup as a hot beverage like tea or coffee. Actually, as soon as you're done with your morning coffee session, rinse the mug, then put boiling water, some of the stuff, and ginger, put them in the thing. The mug. Stir with fork. The color will be gross, so it's a good thing you are not a baby or wimp. Sorry, babies who are being read aloud to! (actually not sorry (moms & dads, please don't read parentheticals out loud)). The important thing here is that you do not boil the paste, because it has living fighters that you need to ingest and assimilate. The other important in a different way thing is that you have the desire to ingest and assimilate valuable fighters. If you don't, why go on?

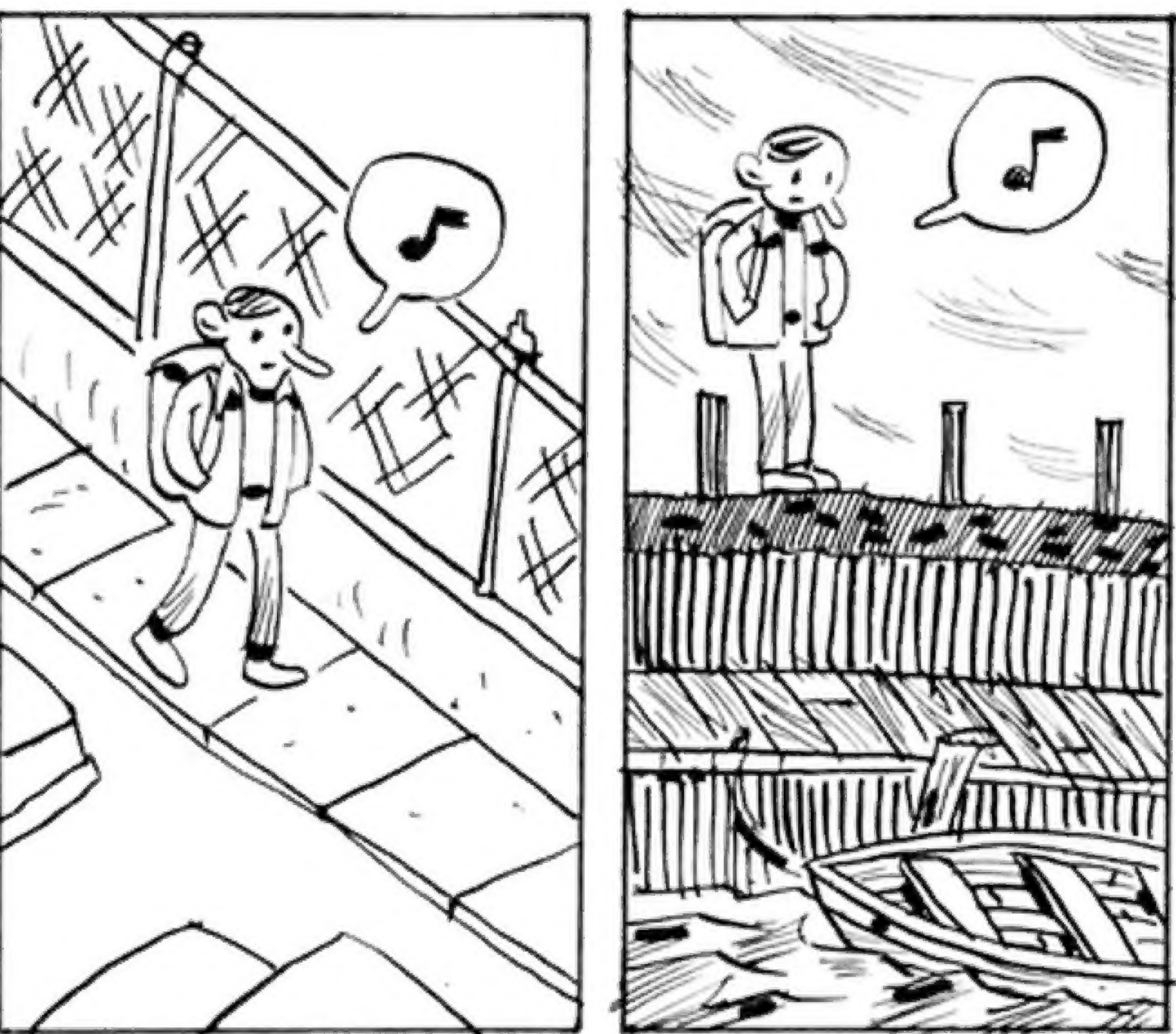
MORE POEMS

MW is on vacation this month- filling in is our beloved correspondant Kakua, from 12th century Japan.

78

Forgetting mind, its complications,
My hand is free. The All appears.
I use devices, simultaneously.
Look—a halo penetrates the Void.

THEE AMBROSE BIERCE MEMORIAL
WORD JUMBLE
by Ambrose Bierce before he died



IANOMIBT -An overmastering desire to be vilified by enemies while living and made ridiculous by friends when dead.

PUAESPAL -The echo of a platitude.

EDRSETAR -Formally detained, having been accused of unusualness. "God made the world in six days and was EDRSETAR on the seventh."

SOBA NOODLES- The good kind are made with buckwheat flour, so these aren't total white bite like the 12 cent ramen. And they don't come with a seasoning packet, so you'll have to cook them like you would cook ramen while high- add extra this and that, and put a fried egg on top... all the things that, if it was the stupid ramen, everything would have too much flavor, but it isn't, you're starting a rung down on the ladder, so everything is fine.

PUT A COOKIE IN THE MICROWAVE - just 12 seconds! we were hyped on the microwave last year, this year we only ever put single cookies in it for 12 seconds.

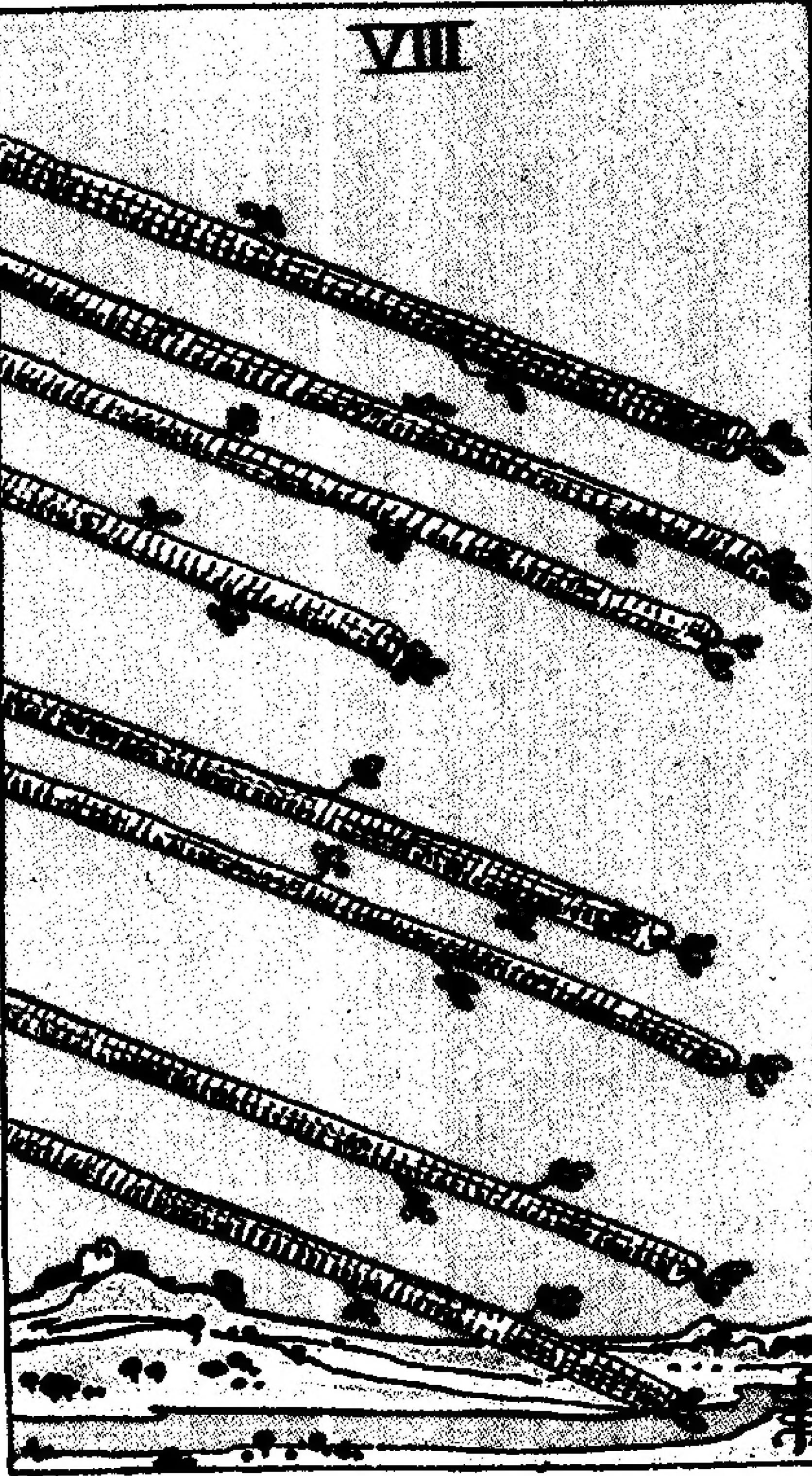
KEEP DRINKING COFFEE- Also eat lots of spicy food! Keep your blood all good and angry!

SCENE REPORT:

ROTTING IN IOWA-
I FOUND A TOM OF FINLAND SHIRT AT A CHRISTIAN THRIFT STORE, STUFFED EM DOWN MY UNIES FOR SAFE KEEPING. - NEW BUD AMANDA SHOWED ME HER THE DEAD MAN'S FINGER IN HER FREEZER, CUT OFF IN A CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT A WEEK BEFORE A CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT. I TOOK DYING IN A CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENT. I TOOK 6 PHOTOS OF IT IN MY PALM AND FELT INSTANTLY HORRIBLE, DISRESPECTFUL. GUILTY. IT STARTED TO THAW FROM THE WARMTH OF MY LIVING HAND, LEAVING A BROWN RESIDUE. A DAY LATER AT 3 AM AMANDA IS STARTLED AWAKE BY HER BEDROOM CEILING FAN CRASHING TO THE FLOOR!!! COINCIDENCE OR CONSPIRACY? MAYBE I PISSED THAT LINGERING MOS BROTHER OFF! TO REMEDY THIS TROUBLING MOS I STUFFED SOME SAGE IN MY UNIES AMANDA. FROM WHOLE FOODS TO MAIL BACK TO AMANDA. PEACE BE WITH YOU! BLUES TO BLISS.

ALSO CHARLIE "TATERBUG" FREE LOST HIS FLOPPY HAT! FIND IT!

Vinnie Vickroy



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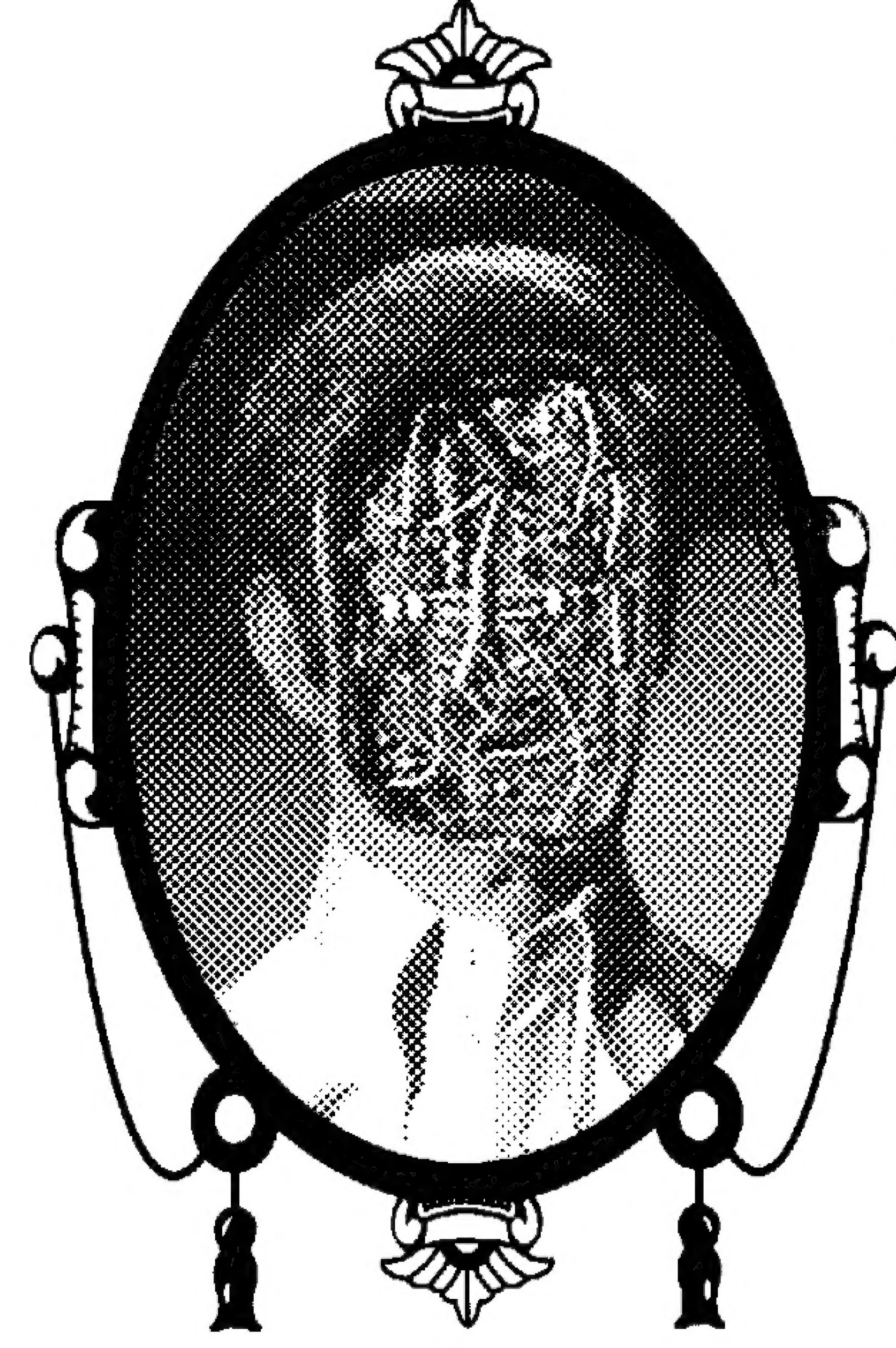
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FIND THE BATMAN!!!!!!

CAN YOU FIND THE BATMAN? HE IS HIDDEN SOMEWHERE IN THE ADVERTISING SECTION(S) OF THIS NEWSPAPER!

WIN A PRIZE!!!!!!

Send a postcard detailing the Batman's whereabouts to THIS NEWS-PAPER, and win a special "WITH THE MOTHER" lapel badge, and be part of a special club. Only mailed-in entries will be counted! Must be postmarked December. send your name + address too, duh!



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FROM THE WRITERS OF MOTHERS NEWS

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PSST! December's password is "ZINFANDEL". If anyone asks you for "Mother's Good Word", that's what it is. December only! If you need a password for any reason, and you want it to expire in a month, please use Mother's Good Word.

"Get your fingers
sticky in my AVRA!"
(Joan Wyand is seeking
courtship for 2011.)

Phone me:317-201-5454

BIOGRAPHY:
MUHAMMAD ALI

(b January 17, 1942 -)
Muhammad Ali wasn't always The Greatest Of All Time- for a few years he was just a kid learning how to box. And then for a period of time he was just a kid that knew how to box. At age 17 he flew across the country for a qualifying fight that secured him a position in the 1960 Olympics in Rome. The flight was turbulent, and a shaken Ali (then called Cassius Clay) decided to never fly again, not even to Rome. His manager talked him out of this decision in a four-hour peptalk, following which he flew to Rome and won a gold medal. Upon his return to Louisville there were parades and accolades, and the Champ wore his medal everywhere. He wore it to a segregated lunch counter, where he was refused service and beset by a gang of racist thugs. The thugs tried to steal the medal from him, and days later Ali walked to a bridge over the Ohio river and threw the medal in. The significance of this act cannot be overlooked:

- 1., Political. "That gold medal didn't mean a thing to me if my black brothers and sisters were treated wrong in a country I was supposed to represent."
- 2., Personal / Inspirational. Taking what would be the greatest moment in another athlete's career and saying "this is just a day".
- 3., Practical (Alexandrian). In this fashion the medal would never be lost.

It was at this time, "after" the Olympic win, that Ali became The Greatest Of All Time.

The best movie about Muhammad Ali is "When We Were Kings". The best record is "I Am The Greatest". The best comic book is "Superman vs. Muhammad Ali".

"QXIXQHXAQQXEQXMUXXQXRQXQDXRERXQEQQDA
XRQQOQXXCQKQX"

LANGUAGE LAB: LATIN

Speaking in the occasional Latin phrase is a good way to seem lawyerly/professorly, and is also a subtle rebuff to anyone being needlessly arcane or using their book-learning as a bludgeon. Or just a way to be frivolous. A lot of these terms may seem familiar without you actually knowing entirely what they mean, which makes you exceptionally vulnerable to their power by agents of control. But coming from the freedom end of things, sometimes when you want to get things done you have to just stop talking for a second, and start INTONING in a dead language, translating a familiar word/sound/idea into something rough enough to focus a will around. In either event, the way spells are cast is through a combination of emotional power, second-person detachment, & scrambledyness.

Following are Latin items for practical consideration. For a list of excellent things to say in Latin about farting, drinking, and eating, see the footnotes to the marvelously entertaining book Gargantua & Pantagruel, by Rabelais. May this wonderful book never fall out of print, out of favor, or down the outhouse well by accident.

- A POSTERIORI - knowledge gained from experience
- A PRIORI - knowledge derived from principles
- ANNUS MIRABILIS - wonderful year
- CASUS BELLI - reason for war
- CORPUS DELICTI - evidence or body of a crime
- DE PROFUNDIS - out of the depths
- EX POST FACTO - after the deed
- FLAGRANTE DELICTO - in the act of a crime
- IN MEDIAS RES - into the middle of things
- NE PLUS ULTRA - no more beyond, zenith
- PERSONA NON GRATA - unwelcome person
- SUB ROSA - communicated in secret
- SUI GENERIS - of its own kind, unique

ELECTION NEWS

the close race this year for Mayor of Barf City has ended in a certainly nebulous state, after ballots were seized by both parties (?) after alternating claims of wrongdoing, evildoing, "being too fussy", mental incompetence, whimsy, intoxication, and pink eye. Mothers News reporters, at great risk of personal impalement, re-stole all collected ballots and tallied them up. Here they are:
Robert Pickle for Mayor of Barf City: 0 votes
Jim Frain for Mayor: also 0
Chip King for Agricultural Comptroller: 1

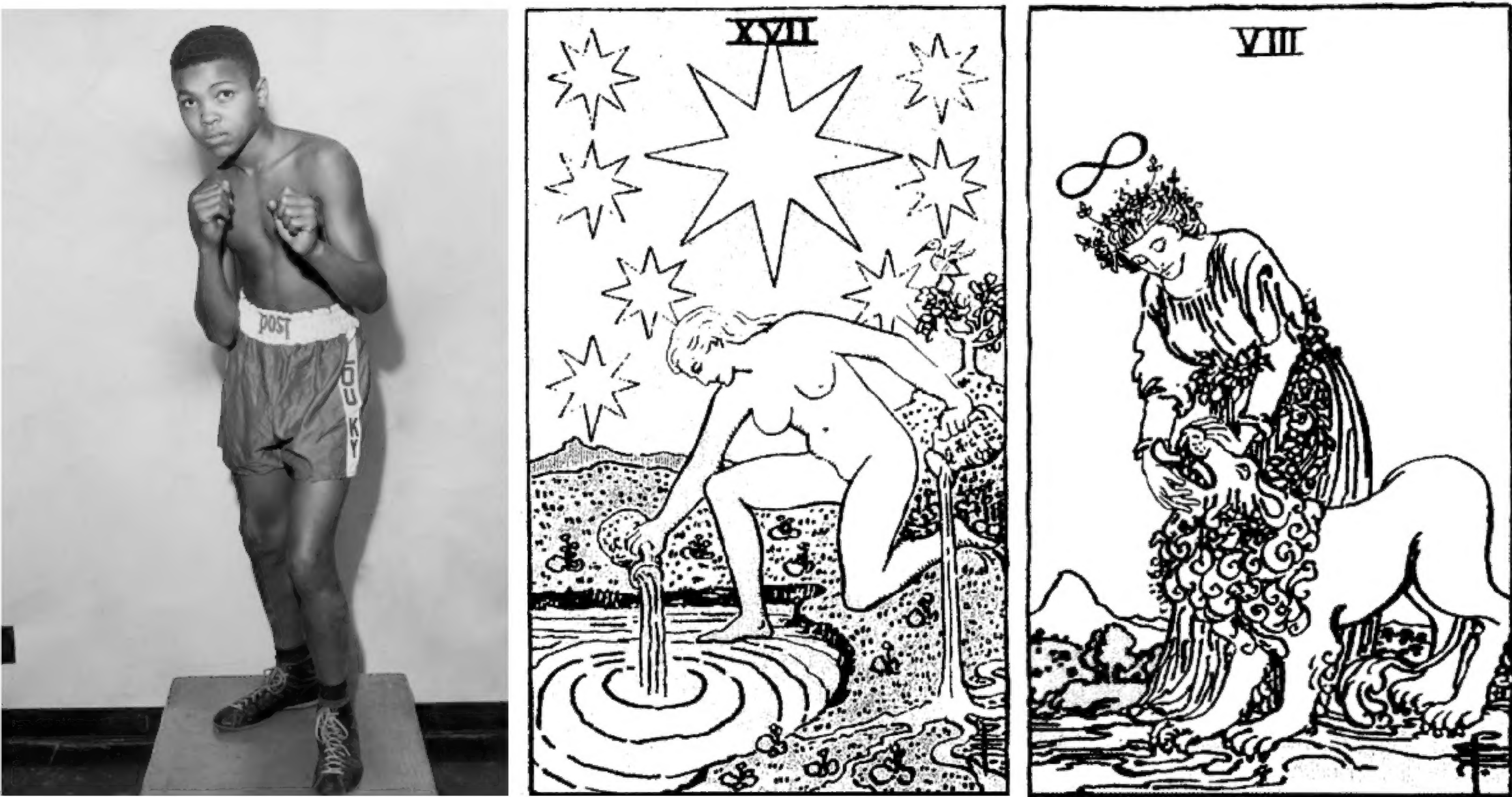
Robert Pickle vows revenge. Jim Frain alleges that he was not harmed in any way, emotionally, physically, or spiritually, and therefore he can only vow "venge". Chip King vows to continue a policy of quintessence and magnanimity. Thanks to all who participated in this fine experiment, "Democracy".

GOSSIP SECTION

SOMEONE'S VANCOUVER BOYFRIEND rolled into town and made multo multo dessert pies for Thanksgiving! The act was... much appreciated... JENINE BRESSNER was on Martha Stewart... I mean, she was on the TV show... Fresh on the heels of his "turn a car into a skateboard" success story, LUKE KRUFFT has been working on turning a microwave into a pop-up toaster. right now it's just a kitchen cupboard that catches on fire but Rome wasn't built, right? ALI DENZIG has a baseball card collection worth over \$5,000! WOW! And speaking of things that smell like bubblegum, basements, and American damage, ZARLOS CONGALEZ has a new band with EDDIE CANTOR's grandson! I mean, Eddie Cantor's grandson saw his band and liked it... DINA KLEBERMAN eats a cup of mayonnaise with strawberries in it MOST DAYS. That's Gross... DAN TRASHCAN refuses to change his email address... DAN, no one's going to hire you to DJ their wedding when the only contact info is PORKATRON88@HOTMAIL.COM... Queenie has no armpits... MUCKY BRAND is starting a cleaning company for people who want to be told by a zaftig freewheeler that they live like slobs and should be ashamed... Famous Noise Blogger MIGGY ZUGGIL's phone is broken from jiu jitsu, so for the next billing season you can text her anything and she won't ever see it. TEXT INTO THE VOID! HEY! GOOD LUCK!

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RIP Jeff Barnard, Leslie Nielsen, JP Toulon, Sleazy, Ingrid Pitt.



REVIEWS SECTION

14 BOOMING HITS (LP) by Freddie "Boom Boom" Cannon. Freddie Cannon's style of shouting instead of singing was probably provoked by his own psychededness at being on stage / being in the studio. But psychologically it's a masterstroke. You just feel like he's shouting for a reason, like it's over a crowd of teens gone ape, and they must be going ape for a reason, so probably you should go ape. A bunch of these songs are about specific places (love it), one of them spells out MASSACHUSETTS (I love songs that spell things), and one of them is just shouting out place names (I love songs that are just lists). There's also a song about a radio, and a song about a record player. THIS KID'S GOT A LOT OF PEP. Also, "Palisades Park" is a perfect song.

LOUIE LOUIE (song) by the Kingsmen- the Federal Bureau of Investigations has created a number of incredible documents- a personal favorite (while not the most ludicrous nor the most incredible) is the report listing multiple possible lyrics, each more vulgar than the last, for this more or less unintelligible though ultimately wholesome song. And somehow no one caught the part where one of the band members comes in early, is upset, and shouts "FUCK!", which is as plain as a Methodist cookbook. This song was first played on the radio as a joke, like "here's a song by a bunch of nonprofessional so-and-so's". Well, joke's on Control, we all like it, for regular reasons.

LESLEY GORE on the T.A.M.I. show (video), the TAMI show was a filmed concert event from 1964, featuring performers from the Barbarians to the Stones to James Brown and the Furious Flames. Somewhere in the mix was 17 year old Lesley Gore, singing 6 songs. The footage is better than anything else from the era, quality-wise- it's weird but your idea of a time period is based so much on the limitations of the recording equipment- On some level I really do think that the old west looked naturally sepia-toned, and without really thinking I usually just assume that the stars of the early 60s naturally looked like blurry kinescopes. So just looking at this crisp footage is like looking into a magic crystal time-lake. But what is DEVASTATING is "You Don't Own Me". Lesley's second song of the night. Most of the song is directed at all of humanity, and is a powerful blast of monolithic will, told without anger. For the last verse, Lesley raises her eyes heavenward and addresses all of creation, in as joyful and resilient and magnificent a manner as Michealangelo. She's not a punk in the traditional sense, but this moment fits perfectly the definition of punk as proffered by Japanese hardcore band GISM: "Punk is D.E.A.D.: Distress Effervescence Awakening Delinquent". MUST SEE! Search "6x Lesley Gore".

MOTHERS TOPTEN

1. GOING TO THE DENTIST - No joke! I put off going to the dentist for yearrrrs, until a tooth "went adult" and started paining. I chose a dentist from a sheet based on name-pleasantness, and that was a great strategy. Painless and breezy. Big thanks Dr Sylvia Koo and staff! You're professional and pleasant! Going to the dentist is No Big Deal, so You Might As Well Do It.
2. DUNGEON BROADS "X" - sikk first tape from Cool Dog. Nothing Mattress.
3. PAUL AND MAURY "Satalite" - nope, not your uncle and his friend, this is Ashley Paul & Sakiko Mori's fresh new band's new fresh tape.
4. THANKSGIVING with the Dirt Pals!
5. Totally Corey on the email listserv- when your email list is too big you need a total jackass to come in and shake off everyone not willing to dig through mud for pearls.
6. IF & OOF!!!!!!! by Brynocki C, on PictureBox. Snoopy cameo.
7. POWR MASTRS 3!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! by CF, also on PictureBox. Mike Leslie cameo. It's comic book Oscar season!
8. DAILY LIFE "Necessary And Pathetic" LP on Load. This is a Night Melter! Features a song about CB radio.
9. VODUN TRON tape/download on Gross Domestic Product. To be played at the same time as "Saxophone Colossus" by Sonny Rollins
10. USAISAMONSTER "RIP"- new record! the last record! i haven't heard it yet but come on, this is like, the best band!
11. ERIC B & RAKIM "Follow The Leader" tape



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